

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0205], beginning at page 31, as follows:

Percent amino acid sequence identity may also be determined using the sequence comparison program NCBI-BLAST2 (Altschul et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389-3402 (1997)). The NCBI-BLAST2 sequence comparison program may be downloaded from ~~http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov~~ the National Institutes of Health website or otherwise obtained from the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD. NCBI-BLAST2 uses several search parameters, wherein all of those search parameters are set to default values including, for example, unmask = yes, strand = all, expected occurrences = 10, minimum low complexity length = 15/5, multi-pass e-value = 0.01, constant for multi-pass = 25, dropoff for final gapped alignment = 25 and scoring matrix = BLOSUM62.

Please amend paragraph [0216], beginning at page 35, as follows:

Percent nucleic acid sequence identity may also be determined using the sequence comparison program NCBI-BLAST2 (Altschul et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389-3402 (1997)). The NCBI-BLAST2 sequence comparison program may be downloaded from ~~http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov~~ the National Institutes of Health website or otherwise obtained from the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD. NCBI-BLAST2 uses several search parameters, wherein all of those search parameters are set to default values including, for example, unmask = yes, strand = all, expected occurrences = 10, minimum low complexity length = 15/5, multi-pass e-value = 0.01, constant for multi-pass = 25, dropoff for final gapped alignment = 25 and scoring matrix = BLOSUM62.

Please amend paragraph [0315], beginning at page 86, as follows:

It may be desired to purify PRO from recombinant cell proteins or polypeptides. The following procedures are exemplary of suitable purification procedures: by fractionation on an ion-exchange column; ethanol precipitation; reverse phase HPLC; chromatography on silica or on a cation-exchange resin such as DEAE; chromatofocusing; SDS-PAGE; ammonium sulfate precipitation; gel

filtration using, for example, ~~Sephadex~~SEPHADEX™ G-75 filtration resin; protein A ~~Sepharose~~SEPHAROSE™ columns to remove contaminants such as IgG; and metal chelating columns to bind epitope-tagged forms of the PRO. Various methods of protein purification may be employed and such methods are known in the art and described for example in Deutscher, Methods in Enzymology, 182 (1990); Scopes, Protein Purification: Principles and Practice, Springer-Verlag, New York (1982). The purification step(s) selected will depend, for example, on the nature of the production process used and the particular PRO produced.

Please amend paragraph [0408], beginning at page 112, as follows:

Anti-PRO antibodies also are useful for the affinity purification of PRO from recombinant cell culture or natural sources. In this process, the antibodies against PRO are immobilized on a suitable support, such as ~~Sephadex~~SEPHADEX™ resin or filter paper, using methods well known in the art. The immobilized antibody then is contacted with a sample containing the PRO to be purified, and thereafter the support is washed with a suitable solvent that will remove substantially all the material in the sample except the PRO, which is bound to the immobilized antibody. Finally, the support is washed with another suitable solvent that will release the PRO from the antibody.

Please amend paragraph [0435], beginning at page 117, as follows:

When a positive colony was isolated, a portion of it was picked by a toothpick and diluted into sterile water (30 µl) in a 96 well plate. At this time, the positive colonies were either frozen and stored for subsequent analysis or immediately amplified. An aliquot of cells (5 µl) was used as a template for the PCR reaction in a 25 µl volume containing: 0.5 µl ~~Klentaq~~ KLENTAQ (a 5'-exo minus N-terminal deletion of Taq DNA polymerase available from Clontech, Palo Alto, CA); 4.0 µl 10 mM dNTP's (Perkin Elmer-Cetus); 2.5 µl ~~Kentaq~~ KLENTAQ buffer (Clontech); 0.25 µl forward oligo 1; 0.25 µl reverse oligo 2; 12.5 µl distilled water. The sequence of the forward oligonucleotide 1 was:

Please amend paragraph [0441], on page 119, as follows:

Following the PCR, an aliquot of the reaction (5 μ l) was examined by agarose gel electrophoresis in a 1% agarose gel using a Tris-Borate-EDTA (TBE) buffering system as described by Sambrook et al., supra. Clones resulting in a single strong PCR product larger than 400 bp were further analyzed by DNA sequencing after purification with a 96 ~~Qiaquick~~-QIAQUICK PCR clean-up column (Qiagen Inc., Chatsworth, CA).

Please amend paragraph [0461], on page 125, as follows:

The proteins are refolded by diluting the sample slowly into freshly prepared refolding buffer consisting of: 20 mM Tris, pH 8.6, 0.3 M NaCl, 2.5 M urea, 5 mM cysteine, 20 mM glycine and 1 mM EDTA. Refolding volumes are chosen so that the final protein concentration is between 50 to 100 micrograms/ml. The refolding solution is stirred gently at 4°C for 12-36 hours. The refolding reaction is quenched by the addition of TFA to a final concentration of 0.4% (pH of approximately 3). Before further purification of the protein, the solution is filtered through a 0.22 micron filter and acetonitrile is added to 2-10% final concentration. The refolded protein is chromatographed on a ~~Poros~~POROSTM R1/H reversed phase column using a mobile buffer of 0.1% TFA with elution with a gradient of acetonitrile from 10 to 80%. Aliquots of fractions with A280 absorbance are analyzed on SDS polyacrylamide gels and fractions containing homogeneous refolded protein are pooled. Generally, the properly refolded species of most proteins are eluted at the lowest concentrations of acetonitrile since those species are the most compact with their hydrophobic interiors shielded from interaction with the reversed phase resin. Aggregated species are usually eluted at higher acetonitrile concentrations. In addition to resolving misfolded forms of proteins from the desired form, the reversed phase step also removes endotoxin from the samples.

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Please amend paragraph [0475], beginning on page 129 as follows:

Twelve micrograms of the desired plasmid DNA is introduced into approximately 10 million CHO cells using commercially available transfection reagents ~~Superfect™ (Quiagen)~~ SUPERFECT™ (Qiagen), ~~desper™~~ DOSPER™ or ~~fugene™~~ FUGENE™ (Boehringer Mannheim). The cells are grown as described in Lucas et al., supra. Approximately 3×10^7 cells are frozen in an ampule for further growth and production as described below.

Please amend paragraph [0489] beginning on page 131 as follows:

Recombinant baculovirus is generated by co-transfecting the above plasmid and ~~BaculoGold™~~ BACULOGOLD™ virus DNA (Pharmingen) into *Spodoptera frugiperda* ("Sf9") cells (ATCC CRL 1711) using ~~lipofectin~~ LIPOFECTIN cationic lipid (commercially available from GIBCO-BRL). After 4 - 5 days of incubation at 58°C, the released viruses are harvested and used for further amplifications. Viral infection and protein expression are performed as described by O'Reilley et al., Baculovirus expression vectors: A Laboratory Manual, Oxford: Oxford University Press (1994).